

# MONTANA TEEN DRIVER CURRICULUM GUIDE

## Module 7.1 – Driver’s License - Lesson Plan

### Student Objectives:

The student recognizes driver education and training as the foundation for assisting the student and parent/supervising driver to continue the lifelong learning process of reduced risk driving. The student understands the requirements for complying with the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) requirements and how to get and keep a driver’s license.

The student is expected to:

- describe the process of obtaining and maintaining a Montana driver license;
- recognize the types of driver licenses and instruction permits;
- be aware of special information that may be placed on a driver license or instruction permit;
- understand licensing restrictions, suspensions, and revocations placed on driving privileges;
- explain the license renewal processes;
- compare what was covered in the course to what still needs to be reinforced and practiced;
- understand the requirements and consequences during a GDL period;
- understand the purpose and use of parent resource materials and how they support practice during the learning phase;
- formulate ways to obtain guided behind-the-wheel practice;
- develop strategies to continue and accept personal responsibility for the lifelong learning process of reduced risk driving.

### Materials Needed:

1. Module 7.1 PowerPoint Presentation
2. Module 7.1 Fact and/or Work Sheets (printed for each student)
3. Module 7.1 Lesson Plan/Teacher Commentary (printed out)

### TEACHER COMMENTARY

The following are questions you can ask during the presentation to engage students and have them develop key concepts related to Driver’s Licensing.

Representation of the module slides are provided to allow you to connect the materials, data, and questions with the presentation.

## Slide 2 - Objectives – Your Driver’s License

- describe the process of obtaining and maintaining a Montana driver license;
- recognize the types of driver licenses and instruction permits;
- understand licensing restrictions, suspensions, and revocations and renewals
- understand the requirements and consequences during a GDL period;
- understand the Graduated Driver Licensing process, the purpose and use of parent resource materials, ways to effectively practice driving during the learning phase;
- and strategies to continue and accept personal responsibility for the lifelong learning process of reduced risk driving.

### Driver Licensing Objectives

Students recognize driver education and training as the foundation for assisting them and the parent or supervising driver to continue the lifelong learning process of reduced risk driving. Students understand the requirements for complying with the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) requirements and how to get and keep a driver's license.

Students are expected to:

- describe the process of obtaining and maintaining a Montana driver license;
- recognize the types of driver licenses and instruction permits;
- understand licensing restrictions, suspensions, and revocations and renewals;
- understand the requirements and consequences during a GDL period;
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- develop strategies to continue and accept personal responsibility for the lifelong learning process of reduced risk driving.



MS 2.1.2

## Slide 3 – Getting your MT Driver’s License

One of the incentives for teens to enroll in driver education is to qualify for a driver’s license before age 16. Parents value the professional instruction and guided practice to help their teens develop safe driving skills and habits.

Generally teachers cover the first few modules on Preparing to Drive, Basic Control and Traffic Laws before administering the CDTF tests. Students must be age 14.5 and participating in traffic education to be eligible to take the DOJ/MVD Knowledge test.

### Getting Your MT Driver’s License



Passing the DOJ Knowledge Test could create the illusion that they know how to drive even though the *MT Driver Manual* says:

**“SECTION 6 - SAFE DRIVING TIPS: No manual can teach you how to operate a vehicle or be a safe driver. Driving requires skill you can only gain through instruction and practice, and even then it all depends on how you choose to apply what you have learned.”**

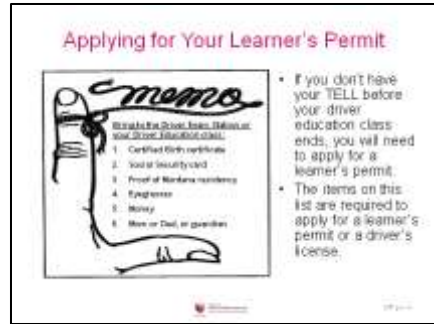


## Slide 4 – Applying for your Learner's Permit

Many of you will obtain your Traffic Education Learner's License (TELL) during your driver's education course, but if you don't, here's what you need to know.

*From the Montana Driver Manual:*

A TELL may be issued to any person who is at least 14 ½ years of age and who is participating in or successfully completed a traffic education course approved by the Department of Justice and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A TELL entitles the licensee to operate a motor vehicle only when accompanied by an approved instructor or licensed parent or guardian.



## Slide 5 – GDL Driving Practice Log

*From the Montana Driver Manual:*

The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program is a three-step progressive program that allows new drivers under 18 to develop and improve their driving skills in the safest environment possible.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for teenagers because teens lack driving experience.

All new drivers – even honor roll students and “good kids” – are likelier than experienced drivers to be involved in crashes due to driver errors, scanning, and speed.

The GDL program limits the number of passengers and driving in the dark, which helps reduce the crash risk for teen drivers.

Each step is designed to progressively increase the skills, privileges, and responsibilities of a new driver. The GDL program includes an instruction permit, first-year restricted license, and full-privilege driver license.



## Slide 6 – Practice with your parents to develop safe driving skills

**Keep Encouraging Young driver Safety: KEYS Project 2009: What is KEYS?** Homework assignments and activities for parents and teen drivers developed by the Montana Department of Transportation, Montana State University-Northern, and the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Download the assignments from OPI's website or order pre-printed full-color packets from MSU-Northern.



## Slide 7 - GDL First-Year Restricted License

**Montana GDL Restrictions:**

**Seatbelts** required – for everyone – all the time

**Passengers** – First 6 months – only one who is not a family member; second 6 months – up to 3 passengers who are not family members. Having zero passengers in the car is best.

**Night restrictions** – teens can't drive between 11:00PM and 5:00AM unless it's an emergency, or you're travelling to school, church, work or farm activities. Darkness is the real risk.



## Slide 8 – Practice for Weather and Road Conditions

Practice driving in varied weather and road conditions to develop skills and strategies to control speed and vehicle balance during adverse weather.



## Slide 9 – Transition to Unsupervised (solo) Driving

In the early months of unsupervised driving, the majority of teens exhibit good driving habits however the study did find instances of texting behind the wheel, horseplay with passengers, and running red lights.

While a very small number of instances of deliberate risk-taking behavior were observed, the vast majority of “close calls” involved judgment errors that seemed to be indicative of inexperience and failure to anticipate changes in the traffic environment. A common scenario involved the teen braking hard after having initially failed to notice that traffic ahead was slowing or stopped.



Highest lifetime crash risk is in the first year of independent driving.  
Lowest risk is when driving with your parent or guardian.

## Slide 10 – Getting your first MT driver's license

You've put in your six months and 50 hours (10 at night) of driving with your parents or legal guardian, and you're ready for your restricted license.

Driver License Exam Stations require TWO forms of identification. The list of additional documents which are accepted ONLY at Driver Exam Stations can be found at <http://www.doj.mt.gov/driving>.

### Getting your first MT driver's license

Verifying your identity is required to prevent fraud.



You may need to make an appointment. Check this website to see if the driver exam station requires appointments:

<https://doj.mt.gov/driving/your-appointment-scheduling>

Bring:

- ☐ CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE (not a copy)
- ☐ SOCIAL SECURITY CARD\* (not a copy)
- ☐ Cancelled mail showing your name and mailing address (can't be a post office box)
- ☐ Parent/legal guardian to sign consent
- ☐ Driving practice GDL log

\* Name and birth date registered with the Social Security Administration must match name and date on driver's license application.

## Slide 11 – Drive by the Rules. Keep the Privilege.

Family rules and limits are about safety, not control.

Montana's GDL places limits on teens during their crucial first year of solo driving. Agreements like this between you and your parents are an excellent way to be held accountable while you are beginning to drive without supervision. Your driving privileges will increase as you gain driving skills and competence, and show you can drive responsibly.

### Drive by the rules. Keep the privilege.





## Slide 12 – As a licensed driver, you can ...

In addition:

- Drivers may have only one valid driver's license at any time.
- A license from another state is good for 60 days in Montana.

Under Montana law, motorists stopped for a traffic violation or involvement in a motor vehicle collision are required to show proof of insurance to law enforcement, in addition to displaying their driver license and vehicle registration.

As a licensed driver, you:



- can operate a motor vehicle on public roadways in Montana in a careful and responsible manner.
- must carry proof of mandatory vehicle liability insurance.
- must have your license with you whenever you drive.
- Your driver license must not be loaned to anyone.

## Slide 13 – Driving on Montana Tribal Lands

Montana Codes and Tribal Codes regulate Traffic. American Indians driving on some reservation roads and highways may follow tribal traffic codes which may not require a driver license and insurance.

Consider inviting a tribal officer or a representative from the tribal court to discuss the traffic codes which apply in specific areas.

The Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes adopted the Montana traffic laws in MCA Title 61.

Driving on Montana Tribal Lands



## Slide 14 – What type of driver license is required?

Which vehicles can you drive?

- Class 2 and Class 3 are the only vehicle classes you can drive with a TELL or Class D driver license.
- Federal Highway Administration Vehicle Classifications are based on axles. Vehicle and trailer weight determine the type of Commercial Driver License required.
- Class 1 Motorcycle Endorsement on Class D Driver License
- Class 2 Class D Driver License
- Class 3 Class D Driver License
- Class 4 CDL Class B or C for 16 passengers or more

What type of driver license is required?



**Federal Highway Administration Vehicle Classification**

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/tmguide/2013>



Montana  
Office of Public Instruction  
Denise Janssen, State Superintendent

- **Class 5 Class D Driver License or CDL for commercial**
- **Class 6 CDL Class B**
- **Class 7 CDL Class B**
- **Class 8 – 13 CDL Class A or B depending on weight**
- **Class A License allows the holder to operate any combination of vehicles, including: a vehicle exceeding 26,000 GVWR that is towing a trailer over 10,000 pounds**
- **Class B License allows the holder to operate a vehicle exceeding 26,000 GVWR that is towing a trailer at/or under 10,000 pounds GVWR**
- **Class C License allows the holder to operate a single vehicle under 26,000 pounds**

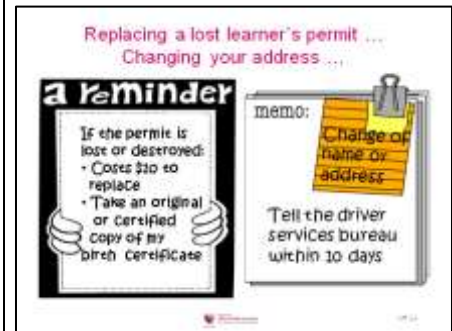
### Slide 15 – Replacing a lost learner's permit ... Changing your address ...

**If your permit is lost or destroyed:**

- **Costs \$10 to replace**
- **Take an original or certified copy of your birth certificate**

**If you change your address:**

- **You have 10 days to notify the Motor Vehicle Division's Driver Services Bureau.**



### Slide 16 – Minor in Possession (MIP) of Alcohol or Drugs

**MIPs are not recorded on an individual's Montana Driving Record, however, judges have the authority to order the suspension of an offender's driver license.**

**The Motor Vehicle Division will suspend the offender's driver's license for the number of days ordered by the court and permanently record the withdrawal on the offender's driving record.**



## Slide 17 – Montana Driver Record

Your driving record is for life. It starts when you start driving.

Montana Driver Record <i>Your driving record is for life</i>		
Montana Driver Record	Points	Points
Excessive Speeding	3 points	10-15
Speeding	3 points	10-15
Other moving violations: Aggressive driving, stop sign, and traffic signals, following too closely, improper passing	3 points	10-15
Car insurance violations	3 points	10-15
Alcohol, drug testing	3 points	10-15
Wrongful arrest	3 points	10-15
Excessive driving - driving with other and points charged for safety or security of property	3 points	10-15
Failure to stop and help or give information when involved in crash	4 or 5 points	10-15
Driving with prior license suspended or revoked	5 points	10-15
Driving with other license suspended or revoked	5 points	10-15
Other moving violations (not listed above)	3 points	10-15
Other moving violations (not listed above)	3 points	10-15

## Slide 18 – Your driving record is for life

A Habitual Traffic Offender can lose his/her license.

30 or more convictions points in 3 years (MCA 61-11-212) = license revoked and no driver's license for 3 years.

Ten speeding tickets = 30 points = revoked license

**Your driving record is for life**

**Habitual Traffic Offender**

- 30 or more convictions points in 3 years (MCA 61-11-212)  
License revoked and no driver's license for 3 years.



Ten speeding tickets = 30 points = revoked license

## Slide 19 – Nationwide Problem Driver System

A person cannot apply for, be issued, or retain a Montana driver license if he/she is suspended or revoked in any other state or jurisdiction.

Upon application for a license, the computer record system is checked to see if you have a driving record in another state(s). If your status is not eligible, you will not be allowed to obtain a Montana's driver's license until your status returns to eligible.

**Nationwide Problem Driver System**

Montana is linked to a nationwide system to detect individuals who are suspended, revoked, disqualified, or denied a license to drive in another state.

The "Problem Driver Pointer System" (PDPS)



## Slide 20 – License Cancellation

In addition to the items listed on the slide:

A minor's driver's license will be cancelled upon the death of the person signing the minor's application.

**License Cancellation**

Violations resulting in a cancellation include:

- removal of parental consent (Yes, they can)



Other examples:

- fraud, and/or falsifying information on application for a license to drive
- paying for a driver license with a non-sufficient funds check
- voluntary surrender of license
- suspended or revoked in another state



## Slide 21 – License Suspension

License suspensions occur when a teen drives under the influence (DUI) or operates a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of 0.02% or greater.

**BAC 0.02% is the lowest detectable limit**  
Under age 21 It is illegal to possess or consume alcohol

A probationary license may be issued to drive to school or work while your license is suspended.

### License Suspension

License suspensions occur when a teen drives under the influence (DUI) or operates a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of 0.02% or greater.



A probationary license may be issued to drive to school or work while your license is suspended.

## Slide 22 – License Suspension (continued)

In addition to the items listed on the slide, your license can be suspended for:

- Non-payment of fines or not appearing when given a notice to appear in court
- Indefinite suspension for failing to pay child support until child support obligations are met
- Default on a student loan

### License Suspension (continued)

A driver's license will be suspended for 30 days to one year (or in some cases indefinitely) due to:

- Conviction of three reckless driving offenses within a 12-month period
- Using a motor vehicle in the theft of motor vehicle fuel
- Medically unsafe driver
- Failure to obtain required medical evaluation or submit to testing
- Making a fraudulent application for a license
- Falsifying a date of birth on a driver's license application
- Altering a driver's license or identification card to obtain alcohol
- Authorizing someone else to use your driver's license or identification card to obtain alcohol
- Any unlawful use of a driver's license

## Slide 23 – License Revocation or Termination

See items listed on slide.

### License Revocation or Termination

Your license can be terminated for one year or more if you have:

- A conviction for negligent homicide with a vehicle
- A conviction for any felony in which a motor vehicle is used
- Failure to stop and render aid as required in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another
- Perjury or the making of a false affidavit or statement under oath relating to the ownership or operation of motor vehicles
- Negligent vehicular assault involving a motor vehicle
- To reinstate your license, you will have to pay all required fees and take and pass all the tests again.



## Slide 24 – Renewing your Driver's License

The length of time a driver's license will be valid depends on several factors, such as your age at the time of initial licensure and the date of your birth.

### Renewing your Driver's License



If you are under the age of 21, your license will expire on your 21st birthday.



If you are between the ages of 21 and 75, your license will expire on your birthday eight years or less after the date.



At age 75 or older, your license will expire on your birthday four years or less after the date of issuance.

## Slide 25 – License Renewal Deadlines

See items listed on slide.

### License Renewal Deadlines

- **Renewal:** You may renew up to **six months before** the expiration date of your license on your birthday.
- **Expired License:** If your birthday passes and you have not renewed, your driving privilege stops on your birthday. If you are found driving after your birthday, you are driving in violation of the law and are eligible for a citation.
- If your license is more than three months expired, you must take and pass the written and driving test.

## Slide 26 – Motorcycle Endorsement

A motorcycle endorsement is required to legally operate a motorcycle or scooter on Montana's streets and highways.

Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety Courses are offered through MSU- Northern  
<http://motorcycle.msun.edu/index.htm>



### Motorcycle Endorsement

#### Motorcycle Learner's License

- Valid for one year to practice under supervision of a motorcycle-endorsement licensed adult driver.

#### Motorcycle Endorsement on a Class D License

- Pass the vision, knowledge, and skills tests.
- Motorcyclists who successfully complete a Montana motorcycle rider course are exempt from the skills test.

## Slide 27 – CDL Classifications

Type 1 Certification allows a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce; you must be at least 21 years old.

Type 2 Certification allows a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in intrastate commerce (only within the state of Montana).

Class A License allows the holder to operate any combination of vehicles, including:

- a vehicle exceeding 26,000 GVWR that is towing a trailer over 10,000 pounds
- articulated buses with a GCVWR exceeding 26,000 pounds
- any vehicle authorized to be driven under Class B, C or D

Class B License allows the holder to operate:

- a vehicle exceeding 26,000 GVWR that is towing a trailer at/or under 10,000 pounds GVWR
- a school bus, or any bus or other vehicle hauling 16 or more passengers, including the driver

### Commercial Driver License (CDL) Classifications



- Class A – Combination Vehicle
- Class B – Heavy straight vehicle
- Class C – Small commercial vehicle transporting 16 or more passengers or hazardous materials



CDL – can be interstate or intrastate



- all vehicles under Class C or D

**Class C License allows the holder to operate:**

- a single vehicle under 26,000 pounds
- a vehicle that hauls hazardous materials in an amount sufficient to require placarding under Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 391
- a school bus, or any vehicle that hauls 16 or more passengers, including the driver

### Slide 28 – Driving with Hazardous Materials

CDL Hazardous Materials endorsement is required of placarded hazardous materials haulers operating commercial vehicles in Vehicle Class A, B, or C. In compliance with federal law, drivers wishing to obtain, transfer or renew a Hazardous Materials endorsement must first have a Security Threat Assessment (STA) completed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This assessment includes but is not limited to fingerprinting and a criminal background check. For TSA office locations, fees, and appointment information, logon to [www.hazprints.com](http://www.hazprints.com) or call toll free 1-877-429-7746.

#### Driving with Hazardous Materials



### Slide 29 – CDL School Bus Endorsement

CDL with School Bus Endorsement - The S endorsement applies to the operation of any commercial vehicle or school bus that carries 16 passengers or more, including the driver, and is used to transport pre-primary, primary or secondary students from:

- home to school
- school to home
- to and from school-sponsored events



A bus used as a common carrier is not considered to be a school bus.

School bus drivers must have a Passenger Endorsement and pass the knowledge exam covering:

- Danger Zones and Use of Mirrors
- Loading and Unloading
- Emergency Exit and Evacuation

#### CDL School Bus Endorsement



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Railroad-highway Grade Crossings</li> <li>• Student Management</li> <li>• Antilock Braking Systems</li> <li>• Special Safety Situations</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Slide 30 – Drive by the rules, keep the privilege.</b></p> <p><b>It's that simple.</b></p>	
<p><b>Slide 31-32 – Standards and Benchmarks</b></p>	

**Updated 4/17/2014**